

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 910

By Baird

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Mrs. Alice W. Coker
upon being named the 2008 South Campbell
County Rotary Club Citizen of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to
improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Alice W. Coker is one such admirable person, who was recently
selected as the 2008 South Campbell County Rotary Club Citizen of the Year; and

WHEREAS, evincing the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors, Alice
Coker is highly respected in her community for her exceptional volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, born and raised on a farm in New Market, Tennessee, that she still owns
today, Mrs. Coker is a pillar of her community; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Maryville College with a degree in sociology in 1938,
Alice Coker moved to LaFollette, Tennessee to begin her first job as a caseworker with the
Tennessee Department of Public Welfare; and

WHEREAS, while her husband, the newly elected Circuit and Criminal Court Clerk for
Campbell County, was away bravely defending this country during World War II, Mrs. Coker
rendered impeccable service in her position as the acting Circuit and Criminal Court Clerk for
Campbell County; she continued working in the clerk's office until the birth of her first child in
1949; and

WHEREAS, after her last child graduated from high school in 1969, Alice Coker
resumed her career with the Tennessee Department of Human Services until her retirement in
1980, earning the respect and admiration of her peers and superiors alike for the exceptional
quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, an avid, lifelong history buff, Mrs. Coker is one of the original members of the Campbell County Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, after visiting the Delap Cemetery behind her house in the early 1960s, Alice Coker became intrigued by the approximately fifty sunken, unmarked graves located there and spent the next few decades determinedly trying to find information on who was buried there; combined with information from another source, Mrs. Coker was able to confirm the Delap Cemetery graves as the burial site of Civil War confederate soldiers; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Alice Coker's dedicated efforts, these long-lost soldiers were honored, and the site was designated as an official Civil War site on June 11, 2005, by the Sons of Confederate Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Coker has the great distinction of being a descendant of one of Tennessee's earliest settlers, William Cobb, making her a member of the prestigious First Families of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, despite her busy schedule of attending to the historical preservation needs of Campbell County, Alice Coker still finds time to practice her Christian beliefs as an active and devout member of Jacksboro United Methodist Church, where she is a faithful Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, believing we are not alone in this world, Mrs. Coker has conducted an extensive study on angels and has eloquently shared her findings with many groups over the years; and

WHEREAS, her many awards and accomplishments aside, Alice Coker is most appreciative of the love and support of her husband since 1940, Mr. Chester C. Coker; she is also the proud mother of two sons, John Whitaker Coker and Joseph Grant Coker, and the doting grandmother of three, Nancy Ann Coker, Mary Alice Coker, and John Joseph Whitaker Coker; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Alice Coker is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend Mrs. Alice W. Coker for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Campbell County, congratulate her upon being named the South Campbell County Rotary Club Citizen of the Year for 2008, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.